

LEV

2. A written message; an epistle.
They use to write it on the top of letters. *Shakespeare.*
I have a letter from her.
Of such contents as you will wonder at. *Shakespeare.*
When a Spaniard would write a letter by him, the Indian
would marvel how it should be possible, that he, to whom
he came, should be able to know all things. *Abbot.*
The asses will do very well for trumpeters, and the hares
will make excellent letter carriers. *L'Estrange's Fables.*
The stile of letters ought to be free, easy, and natural;
as near approaching to familiar conversation as possible: the
two best qualities in conversation are, good humour and good
breeding; those letters are therefore certainly the best that
show the most of these two qualities. *Walsh.*
Mrs. P. B. has writ to me, and is one of the best letter
writers I know; very good sense, civility, and friendship,
without any stiffness or constraint. *Swift.*
3. The literal or expressed meaning.
Touching translations of holy scripture, we may not dis-
allow of their painful travels herein, who strictly have tied
themselves to the very original letter. *Hooker, b. v.*
In obedience to human laws, we must observe the letter of
the law, without doing violence to the reason of the law,
and the intention of the lawgiver. *Taylor's holy living.*
Those words of his must be understood not according to
the bare rigour of the letter, but according to the allowances
of expression. *South's Sermons.*
What! since the pretor did my letters loose,
And left me freely at my own dispose,
May I not live without controul and awe,
Excepting still the letter of the law? *Dryden's Persius.*
4. Letters without the singular: learning.
The Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man let-
ters, having never learned? *John vii. 15.*
5. Any thing to be read.
Good laws are at best but a dead letter. *Addis. Freeholder.*
6. Type with which books are printed.
The iron ladies that letter foundress use to the casting of
printing letters, are kept constantly in melting metal. *Moxon.*
To LETTER. *v. a.* [from letter.] To stamp with letters.
I observed one weight lettered on both sides; and I found
on one side, written in the dialect of men, and underneath
it, calamities; on the other side was written, in the lan-
guage of the gods, and underneath, blessings. *Addison.*
LETTERED. *adj.* [from letter.] Literate; educated to learn-
ing.
A martial man, not sweetened by a lettered education, is
apt to have a tincture of fierceness. *Collier on Pride.*
LETUCE. *n. f.* [*lactuca*, Latin.]
The lettuce hath a fibrous root, which is, for the most
part, annual; the leaves are smooth, and grow alternately
upon the branches; the stalks are, for the most part, tender,
slender, and stiff, and commonly terminate in a sort of um-
bel; the cup of the flower is oblong, slender, and scaly; the
seeds are oblong, depressed, and generally terminate in a
point: the species are, common or garden lettuce; cabbage
lettuce; Silesia lettuce; white and black cos; white cos; red
capuchin lettuce. *Miller.*
Fat colworts, and comforting purslains,
Cold lettuce, and refreshing romesmarie. *Spenser.*
Lettuce is thought to be poisonous, when it is so old as to
have milk. *Bacon's Natural History.*
The medicaments proper to diminish milk, are lettuce,
purslane, endive. *Wifeman's Surgery.*
LEVANT. *adj.* [*levant*, French.] Eastern.
Thwart of those, as hence
Forth rush the levants, and the potent winds,
Eurus and Zephyr. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. x.*
LEVANT. *n. f.* The east, particularly those coasts of the Me-
diterranean east of Italy.
LEVATOR. *n. f.* [Lat.] A chirurgical instrument, whereby
depressed parts of the skull are lifted up.
Some surgeons bring out the bone in the bore; but it will
be safer to raise it up with your levator, when it is but lightly
retained in some part. *Wifeman's Surgery.*
LEUCOPLEGMACY. *n. f.* [from *leucoplegmatick*.] Paleness,
and droopings.
Spirits produce debility, flatulency, fevers, leucoplegmacy,
and droopings. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*
LEUCOPLEGMATICK. *adj.* [*λευκος* and *πλεγμα*.] Having
such a constitution of body where the blood is of a pale co-
lour, viscid, and cold, whereby it stuffs and bloats the har-
bit, or raises white tumours in the feet, legs, or any other
parts; and such are commonly asthmatick and dropical.
Quincy.
Asthmatic persons have voracious appetites, and for want
of a right sanguification are leucoplegmatick. *Arbutnot.*
LEVÉE. *n. f.* [French.]
1. The time of rising.
2. The concourse of those who crowd round a man of power
in a morning.

LEV

- The fervile rout their careful Caesar praise;
Him they extol, they worship him alone,
They crowd his levees, and support his throne. *Dryden.*
Wouldst thou be first minister of state?
To have thy levees crowded with resort,
Of a depending, gaping, servile court. *Dryden's Juvenal.*
None of her Sylvan subjects made their court,
Levees and couches paid without resort. *Dryden.*
LEVÉE. *adj.* [Hevel, Saxon.]
1. Even; not having one part higher than another.
The garden, seated on the level floor,
She left behind, and locking ev'ry door,
Thought all secure. *Dryden's Boocace.*
Be level in preferments, and you will soon be as level in
your learning. *Bentley.*
2. Even with any thing else; in the same line with any thing.
Our navy is addrested, our pow'r collected,
Our substitutes in absence well invested,
And ev'ry thing lies level to our wish. *Shakespeare, Henry IV.*
There is a knowledge which is very proper to man, and
lies level to human understanding; and that is, the know-
ledge of our Creator, and of the duty we owe to him. *Tillotson's Sermons.*
To LEVEL. *v. a.* [from the adjective.]
1. To make even; to free from inequalities.
2. To reduce to the same height with something else.
Reason can never assent to the admission of those brutish
appetites which would over-run the soul, and level its supe-
rior with its inferior faculties. *Decay of Piety.*
Behold the law
And rule of beings in your maker's mind:
And thence, like limbeck, rich ideas draw,
To fit the level'd use of humankind. *Dryden.*
3. To lay flat.
We know by experience, that all downright rains do ever-
more dissolve the violence of outrageous winds, and beat
down and level the swelling and mountainous billows of the
sea. *Raleigh.*
He will thy foes with silent shame confound,
And their proud structures level with the ground. *Sandys.*
With unresisted might the monarch reigns,
He levels mountains, and he raises plains;
And not regarding difference of degree,
Abas'd your daughter, and exalted me. *Dryden.*
4. To bring to equality of condition.
5. To point in taking aim; to aim.
One to the gunners on St. Jago's tow'rs,
Bid 'em for shame,
Level their canon lower. *Dryden's Spanish Friar.*
6. To direct to any end.
The whole body of puritans was drawn to be abettors of
all villainy by a few men, whose designs from the first were
levelled to destroy both religion and government. *Swift.*
To LEVEL. *v. n.*
1. To aim at; to bring the gun or arrow to the same direc-
tion with the mark.
The glory of God, and the good of his church, was the
thing which the apostles aimed at, and therefore ought to be
the mark whereto we also level. *Hooker, b. iv.*
2. To conjecture; to attempt to guess.
I pray thee overname them; and as thou namest them I
will describe them; and, according to my description, level
at my affection. *Shakespeare, Merchant of Venice.*
3. To be in the same direction with a mark.
He to his engine flew,
Plac'd near at hand in open view,
And rais'd it till it level'd right,
Against the glow-worm tail of kite. *Hudibras, p. ii.*
4. To make attempts; to aim.
Ambitious York did level at thy crown. *Shakespeare.*
LEVEL. *n. f.* [from the adjective.]
1. A plane; a surface without protuberances or inequalities.
After draining of the level in Northamptonshire, innume-
rable mice did upon a sudden arise. *Hale's Original of Mankind.*
Those bred in a mountainous country overtake those that
dwell on low levels. *Sandys's Travels.*
2. Rate; standard.
Love of her made us raise up our thoughts above the or-
dinary level of the world, so as great clerks do not disdain
our conference.
It might perhaps advance their minds so far
Above the level of subjection, as
To assume to them the glory of that war. *Daniel.*
The praises of military men inspired me with thoughts
above my ordinary level. *Dryden.*
3. A state of equality.
The time is not far off when we shall be upon the level;
I am resolv'd to anticipate the time, and be upon the level
with them now: for he is so that neither seeks nor wants
them. *Auterbury to Pope.*
Providence,

LEV

- Providence, for the most part, set us upon a level, and
observes a kind of proportion in its dispensations towards us.
Addison's Spectator, N^o. 255.
I suppose, by the file of old friend, and the like, it must
be somebody there of his own level; among whom his party
have, indeed, more friends than I could wish. *Swift.*
4. An instrument whereby masons adjust their work.
The level is from two to ten feet long, that it may reach
over a considerable length of the work: if the plumb-line
hang just upon the perpendicular, when the level is set flat
down upon the work, the work is level; but if it hangs on
either side the perpendicular, the floor or work must be raised
on that side, till the plumb-line hang exactly on the perpen-
dicular. *Moxon's Mechanical Exercises.*
5. Rule: borrowed from the mechanick level.
Be the fair level of thy actions laid,
As temperance wills, and prudence may persuade,
And try if life be worth the liver's care. *Prior.*
6. The line of direction in which any missile weapon is aimed.
I stood i' th' level
Of a full charg'd confederacy, and gave thanks
To you that choked it. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*
As if that name,
Shot from the deadly level of a gun,
Did murder her. *Shakespeare, Romeo and Juliet.*
Thrice happy is that humble pair,
Beneath the level of all care,
Over whose heads those arrows fly,
Of sad distrust and jealousy. *Waller.*
7. The line in which the sight passes.
Fir'd at first fight with what the muse imparts,
In fearless youth we tempt the heights of arts;
While from the bounded level of our mind
Short views we take, nor see the lengths behind. *Pope.*
LEVELLER. *n. f.* [from level.]
1. One who makes any thing even.
2. One who destroys superiority; one who endeavours to bring
all to the same state of equality.
You are an everlasting leveler; you won't allow encourage-
ment to extraordinary merit. *Collier on Pride.*
LEVELNESS. *n. f.* [from level.]
1. Evenness; equality of surface.
2. Equality with something else.
The river Tiber is express'd lying along, for so you must
remember to draw rivers, to express their levelness with the
earth. *Peacocks.*
LEVELIN. *n. f.* [*levain*, French.]
1. Ferment; that which being mixed in bread makes it rise
and ferment.
2. Any thing capable of changing the nature of a greater mass;
any thing that tinctures the whole.
The matter fermenteth upon the old leaven, and becometh
more acid. *Wifeman's Surgery.*
As to the pestilential levains conveyed in goods, it is a false
opinion. *Arbutnot on Air.*
LEVELER. *n. f.* [*levier*, French.]
The second mechanical power, is a balance supported by
a hypomochlion; only the centre is not in the middle, as
in the common balance, but near one end; for which reason
it is used to elevate or raise a great weight; whence
comes the name lever.
Have you any levers to lift me up again, being down.
Shakespeare's Henry IV.
Some draw with cords, and some the monster drive
With rolls and levers. *Denham.*
In a lever, the motion can be continued only for so short
a space, as may be answerable to that little distance betwixt
the fulcrum and the weight; which is always by so much
lesser, as the disproportion betwixt the weight and the power
is greater, and the motion itself more easy. *Wilkins's Magick.*
Some hoisting levers, some the wheels prepare. *Dryden.*
You may have a wooden lever, forked at the ends. *Mort.*
LEVELLET. [*levre*, French.] A young hare.
Their travels o'er that silver field does show,
Like track of leverets in morning snow. *Waller.*
LEVET. *n. f.* [from lever, French.] A blast on the trumpet;
probably that by which the soldiers are called in the morning.
He that led the cavalcade;
Wore a fowgelder's flagellet,
On which he blew as strong a levet;
As well-see'd lawyer on his briefcase. *Hudibras.*
LEVEROOK. *n. f.* [*lapece*, Saxon.] This word is retained in
Scotland, and denotes the lark.
The smaller birds have their particular seasons; as, the
leverock. *Walter's Angler.*
If the lust faa 'twill smooze aw the leverocks, Scotch Provs.
LEVABLE. *adj.* [from levay.] That may be levied.
The sums which any agreed to pay, and were not brought
in, were to be leviable by course of law. *Bacon's Henry VII.*
LEVATHAN. *n. f.* [*ליתאן*.] A water animal mentioned in
the book of Job. By some imagined the crocodile, but in
poetry generally taken for the whale.

LEW

- We may, as bootless, spend our vain command
Upon th' enraged soldiers in their spoil,
As send our precepts to th' Leviathan, *Shakespeare's Henry V.*
To come ashore. *Job.*
Canst thou draw out Leviathan with an hook?
More to embroil the deep; Leviathan,
And his unwieldy train, in dreadful sport
Tempest the loosen'd brine. *Thomson's Winter.*
To LEVIGATE. *v. a.* [*levigo*, Latin.]
1. To rub or grind to an impalpable powder.
2. To mix till the liquor becomes smooth and uniform.
The chyle is white; as consisting of salt, oil, and water,
much levigated or smooth. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*
LEVIGATION. *n. f.* [from levigate.]
Levigation is the reducing of hard bodies, as coral, tutty,
and precious stones, into a subtle powder, by grinding upon
marble with a muller; but unless the instruments are ex-
tremely hard, they will so wear as to double the weight of
the medicine. *Quincy.*
LEVITE. *n. f.* [*levita*, Latin, from *Levi*.]
1. One of the tribe of Levi; one born to the office of priest-
hood among the Jews.
In the Christian church, the office of deacons succeeded in
the place of the levites among the Jews, who were as mi-
nisters and servants to the priests. *Ayliffe's Parergon.*
2. A priest: used in contempt.
LEVITICAL. *adj.* [from *levite*.] Belonging to the levites;
making part of the religion of the Jews.
By the levitical law, both the man and the woman were
stoned to death; so heinous a crime was the sin of adultery.
Ayliffe's Parergon.
LEVITY. *n. f.* [*levitas*, Latin.]
1. Lightness; not heaviness: the quality by which any body
has less weight than another.
He gave the form of levity to that which ascended; to that
which descended, the form of gravity. *Raleigh.*
This bubble, by reason of its comparative levity to the
fluidity that encloses it, would necessarily ascend to the top.
Bentley's Sermons.
2. Inconstancy; changeableness.
They every day broached some new thing; which restless
levity they did interpret to be their growing in spiritual per-
fection. *Hooker.*
Where wigs with wigs, with sword-knots sword-knots
strive,
Beaus banish beaus, and coaches coaches drive,
This erring mortals levity may call. *Pope.*
3. Unsteadiness; laxity of mind.
I unbosom'd all my secrets to thee;
Not out of levity, but over-pow'd
By thy request. *Milton's Agonistes.*
4. Idle pleasure; vanity.
He never employed his omnipotence out of levity or offen-
sation, but as the necessities of men required. *Calamy.*
5. Trifling gaiety; want of seriousness.
Our graver business frowns at this levity. *Shakespeare.*
Hopton abhorred the licence, and the levities, with which
he saw too many corrupted. *Clarendon, b. viii.*
That spirit of religion and seriousness vanished, and a
spirit of levity and libertinism, infidelity and prophaneness,
started up in the room of it. *Auterbury's Sermons.*
To LEVY. *v. a.* [*levier*, French.]
1. To raise; to bring together men.
He resolv'd to finish the conquest of Ireland, and to that
end levied a mighty army. *Davies on Ireland.*
2. To raise money.
Levy a tribute unto the Lord of the men of war. *Numb.*
Instead of a ship, he should levy upon his county such a
sum of money. *Clarendon.*
3. To make war. This sense, though Milton's, seems im-
proper.
They live in hatred, enmity, and strife,
Among themselves, and levy cruel wars. *Milton.*
LEVY. *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. The act of raising money or men.
They have already contributed all their superfluous hands,
and every new levy they make must be at the expence of
their farms and commerce. *Addison's State of the War.*
2. War raised.
Treason has done his worst: nor steel, nor poison,
Malice domestick, foreign levy, nothing,
Can touch him further! *Shakespeare's Macbeth.*
LEWD. *adj.* [*lepede*, Saxon.]
1. Lay; not clerical. Obsolete.
For lewd men this book I writ.
So these great clerks their little wisdom shew
To mock the lewd, as learn'd in this as they. *Davies.*
2. Wicked; bad; naughty.
If some be admitted into the ministry, either void of
learning, or lewd in life, are all the rest to be con-
demned? *Whitgift.*
Before